

DMJ casebook series

Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence (DMJ)

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The DMJ is administered by the Society of Apothecaries of London. Potential candidates must possess a medical or dental qualification for at least three years and be registered with the GMC or GDC in the UK to practise. Medical or dental graduates who have qualified outside the UK may be admitted to the Examination by approval of the Court of Examiners if they have complied with all other requirements of the regulations.

Candidates must show evidence of experience of medico-legal practice and demonstrate the potential to acquire the full experience necessary for admission to Part II. Suitable appointments may include, for example, forensic physicians, forensic odontologists or pathologists who are contracted to provide services to HM Contabulary; HM prison; academic centres of forensic medicine; medical defence society; coroners; and forensic psychiatrists.

The examination is divided into two parts:

Part I: The Primary Examination in basic matters related to all branches of medico-legal practice, which does not carry a Diploma. This involves a written essay paper, and a short answer paper, followed by a viva examination.

Part II: The Final Examination, which may be taken in the following disciplines:

- (a) Clinical DMJ (Clin).
- (b) Pathology DMJ (Path).
- (c) Odontology DMJ (Odont).

Part II involves preparing a case book containing details of 10 cases, an essay paper, short answer paper, and a practical (for pathologists only) and oral examination during which the case book may be discussed.

The case book must demonstrate personal involvement in 10 cases, each of which is pertinent to the Syllabus. As wide a

spectrum of cases as possible will be expected. Where candidates work in specialised fields and a number of similar cases have been used to illustrate different parts of the syllabus at least three cases must be out of the specialist area. If necessary such experience can be gained by shadowing a forensic physician. The case histories must be presented anonymously and the case book must be authenticated by the Head of Department or Principal Forensic Physician. Production of a well prepared casebook will assist the candidate in the final exam as most of the revision will have been done! The examiners are looking for an in depth approach to the case which show evidence of research and further reading and not just regurgitation of standard texts.

The examination is held twice a year usually on the first Monday of the relevant month and the oral examination ten days later on the Thursday. However, candidates are advised to check the forthcoming examination dates with the Registrar – Part I in October and April; Part II in January and July. The examinations are held at Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars, London. For Part I there are examiners in each discipline pathology, clinical and odontology, drawn from a panel, and for Part II the examiners will be from the candidate's chosen discipline.

Detailed advice regarding the examination, for example eligibility, and production of the case book for Part II should be obtained from the Registrar. General advice can be obtained from the Secretary of the Association of Forensic Physicians (AFP) or the Convenor of the Examination through the AFP office.

For further information contact the Registrar Tel.: +020 7236 1180; fax: +020 7329 3177; e-mail: examoffice@apothecaries.org; www.apothecaries.org.

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